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CIA Revises Policy On Ties to Academia

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A top Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) official, responding to a controversy last fall over a Harvard professor's acceptance and handling of two CIA contracts, last night announced that the CIA will give greater freedom to scholars who accept agency funding for research, consulting, or conferences.

Robert M. Gates, the CIA's deputy director for intelligence, disclosed the policy changes at an extraordinary public appearance before a restricted audience at the Kennedy School of Government.

Gates said that in a departure from past policy, the CIA will under most conditions allow scholars to decide whether to disclose that their published research has been funded by the agency.

Gates said cases where such disclosure could damage U.S. relations with other countries would be exceptions to the new rule.

In addition, Gates said that scholars participating in CIA-funded conferences must be told of the agency sponsorship in advance.

Gates said the two changes were prompted by the controversy surrounding revelations last October that Director of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies Nadav Safran had accepted two CIA grants totaling more than \$150,000 to fund a conference on Islamic fundamentalism and to conduct research on Saudi Arabia.

Gates also said the agency will decrease the scope of its pre-publication review of scholarly research.

Joseph P. Nye, Dillon Professor of International Affairs, who spoke after Gates, called Gates' announcement a "major step forward." "You just heard a bureaucracy move," he said.

Safran did not inform participants in the October conference of the CIA sponsorship. He also agreed to give the CIA censorship rights over publications arising out of his Saudi Arabia research and to keep the funding source secret.

Such agreements run counter to University guidelines for the acceptance of sponsored research.

Following a three-month investigation, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences A. Michael Spence announced that Safran would step down as director of the center in June. Safran will retain his tenured professorship in the Government Department.

Safran, who was among a number of prominent Harvard professors in attendance last night, did not participate in a freewheeling discussion, some of which centered on his actions, that followed speeches by Gates, Nye, and Vice President for Government and Public Affairs John Shattuck.

The speech came as reports in yesterday's *Crimson* disclosed that a second Harvard professor, Eaton Professor of Government Samuel P. Huntington, had entered a research arrangement which granted the CIA the power of pre-publication review and the right to keep the funding secret.

Gates' announcement of the policy changes came during a wide-ranging and comprehensive discussion of the historical roots of CIA-Harvard ties, and the problems that arise from the conflicting interests of government and academia.

Academic institutions, and Harvard in particular, have long fought what they call attempts by the CIA and other government institutions to restrict the academic community's right to research and publish freely. CIA officials have

argued that some measure of secrecy is necessary to ensure that the CIA does not compromise its own operations.

Gates called Harvard's guidelines for acceptance of the CIA funding "among the most stringent in the nation." And in an apparent criticism of Harvard's research guidelines, Gates said that "a university steps on precarious ground and threatens academic freedom itself by restricting what organizations a scholar may talk to, especially if one of the organizations is a branch of the government."

Harvard's often confusing research guidelines, which are currently under review, require professors to inform the University of private contracts with the CIA.

The University forbids acceptance of institutional contracts which either grant the agency rights to review research, restrict publication, or prevent acknowledgement of CIA sponsorship.

Gates said that academia could not isolate itself from the needs of the nation. "Working with your government to bring about a better foreign policy is not shameful, it is consistent with a scholar's highest duty," he said.

Noting that scholars receive support from a wide variety of sources, Gates said, "Singling out a U.S. government agency as a particular threat to honest inquiry represents a double standard if not outright hypocrisy."

Gates said that a working relationship between the CIA and academia "is not necessarily a one-way street."

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"Just as we are conscious of our need for the injection of ideas and information from outside government channels, I believe you should concede that there is at least the possibility that you might learn something from discussions with us," Gates said.

The changes announced by Gates specifically address three key points of debate surrounding Safran's and Huntington's handling of CIA grant money and broader questions raised by agency-sponsored research:

- Gates said the CIA will now permit scholars to disclose CIA "funding of research that is later independently published" unless the scholar requests privacy or the CIA decides that acknowledgement of the ties would not be in the national interest.

Gates said the CIA had previously sought to keep sponsorship secret to avoid creating problems with foreign governments because of the effect acknowledged agency interest would have on relations with that country. Gates also said public acknowledgement could create the impression that the scholar's conclusions were the CIA's.

Safran, whose research on Saudi Arabia culminated in the publication last fall of "Saudi Arabia: The Ceaseless Quest for Security," did

not mention the CIA money in the book's preface, but acknowledged two other sources of funding.

Huntington and a co-author did not mention CIA funding for research that led to the publication "Dead Dictators and Rioting Millions" in the current issue of the CIA-sponsored journal International Security.

- Gates said scholars who accept CIA money to fund conferences must inform participants of the funding in advance. The move came in response to Safran's failure to tell all but at least one of 25 participants in the October conference that the Faculty Club symposium was made possible by a \$45,700 CIA grant.

- The agency has also limited the scope of its powers to edit or censor research sponsored by the CIA, Gates said. The review now is limited to the specific subject area in which a consultant had access to classified information. Gates said that this change had been made "well before the recent controversy here at Harvard."

Gates said, however, that researchers conducting CIA-sponsored work would have to submit publications to the CIA so that the agency could determine that it got its "money's worth."



CIA Deputy Director for Intelligence ROBERT M. GATES spoke at the Kennedy School last night about agency-academia ties.

Criticism/ Rodlyn L. Cole